Groundwater Pollution Case Studies

Write some notes/bullet points while watching each of the case studies:

**Case #1: A Civil Action: Documentary and Film**

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| What was the time period of this case? |  |
| All eyes were on this case. This was a ‘landmark’ case. Why is that? |  |
| What ‘cluster’ of diseases were observed in Woburn, Mass and who was affected? | 1.  2. |
| Two things need to prove or win this case | 1.  2. |
| Why not settled out of court? |  |
| Chemical pollutant involved? |  |
| Names of companies involved in case | 1.  2. |
| What did these companies produce, or what was their business? | First Co:  Second Co: |
| What wrongdoing was alleged to have been committed by these companies? |  |
| What was the final dollar settlement? |  |
| Why weren’t the families satisfied with this amount of settlement? |  |
| In the end, what did the EPA order to be done with this site and at what cost? | 1.  2. |
| Why is the lead lawyer a good example, ultimately, of an activist? |  |

**Case #2: Toms River: A Town Fights Back**

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| What was the time period of this case? |  |
| Names of companies involved in case | 1.  2. |
| What did these companies produce, or what was their business? | First Co:  Second Co: |
| What wrongdoing was alleged to have been committed by these companies? |  |
| Of the nearly 1 million gallons of waste generated daily, what % went into the ground water and what % into the river? | Groundwater:  River: |
| A 10 mile pipeline was later built to lead out to the ocean. What happened in the early 1980s that brought all this to public awareness? |  |
| In the 1990s what began to be observed? |  |
| What is a cancer cluster? |  |

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| What was the chemical involved? |  |
| What was the brilliant remediation plan proposed and why didn’t it work? |  |
| How much money paid out to clean the site over the next 30 years? |  |

**Case #3: Fracking for Natural Gas:**

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| What is the extent of new fracking wells proposed for Pennsylvania? |  |
| What are the two pros of fracking? | 1.  2. |
| The idea of cumulative impact is introduced. What does that mean? Why isn’t the potential problem being looked at yet? |  |
| What are the two carcinogenic elements that worrying people in this story? |  |
| What is the health effect of the above elements? |  |
| Why is natural gas NOT interchangeable with petroleum? |  |
| Natural gas burns cleaner than any other fossil fuel, but the ‘lifecycle’ is not cleaner. Why not? |  |
| It was said that “Technology has exceeded our regulatory capacity and we have a government saying something ahead of the technology.” Discuss this with your group. What do you think is meant by this? |  |

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| **Final Reflections: So how do the first cases (Woburn, Mass and Tom’s River) relate to what happened this year in Flint, Michigan? What is the likelihood that we may see some worrisome health problems surface in the future, in areas where fracking is going on? Explain your thinking.**  **Do you feel sufficient efforts are being made to make sure this does not happen? What do you think about this technology? Is it sufficiently regulated???????** |  |